

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

IO-12 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 ARA-11

AF-10 DPW-01 RSR-01 /169 W

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O R 221132 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1356

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

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CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 4975

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T - P A R A G R A P H 1.)

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - MAY 22, 1973

JOINT EMBASSY/ DAO

GENERAL

1. THE NEW CABINET HEADED BY FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT IN TAM TOOK OFFICE ON MAY 16 WITH A PROGRAM OF REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY AND REDUCTION OF ITS INFLUENCE IN CIVIL AFFAIRS, NATIONAL RECONCILIATION, AND TIGHTER ECONOMIC CONTROLS. THE ABLE FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE SOK CHHONG WAS NAMED GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK. FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PARIS, OUTLINED HIS PRIVATE PLANS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS WITH INSURGENTS, AND THE PRESS REPORTED THAT PRIME MINISTER IN TAM WOULD VISIT PROVINCIAL AREAS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE. PRESIDENT LON NOL LEFT ON MAY 20 FOR A REST AT SEADIDE KOMPONG SOM. THE MILITARY SITUATION IMPROVED FURTHER AS THE TAKEO PERIMETER WAS EXPANDED AGAINST LIGHT RESISTANCE AND ENEMY ATTACKS AROUND THE CAPITAL SLACKENED. RIVER CONVOYS SUCCESSFULLY REACHED PHNOM PENH AND RETURNED SUFFERING ONLY SLIGHT DAMAGE FROM ENEMY FIRE. ON MAY 22 ROUTE 4 WAS CUT NORTH OF KOMPONG SOM, HOWEVER, AND
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OPERATIONS TO CLEAR ROUTE 5 HAVE MADE LITTLE HEADWAY.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)

2. AFTER A MONTH OF NEGOTIATION, A NEW CABINET OF 24 MINISTERS HEADED BY FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT IN TAM AS PRIME MINISTER WAS PRESENTED TO

PRESIDENT LON NOL ON MAY 16. IT INCLUDES 10 SOCIO-REPUBLICANS, THREE REPUBLICANS, EIGHT INDEPENDENTS (THRE OF WHOM ARE RECENTLY RESIGNED DEMOCRATS) AND THREE SOLDIERS. KEY MINISTERS ARE LONG BORET AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MAJOR GENERAL U SAY (PRESENTLY AMBASSADOR TO LAOS) AT DEFENSE, AND KEO MONGKRY AT FINANCE. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY IN TAM ARE: REORGANIZATION OF THE ARMY AND RESTORATION OF ITS DISCIPLINE, DESIGNATION OF A COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNMENT, GRADUAL REPLACEMENT OF MILITARY PROVINCE GOVERNORS BY CIVILIANS, CREATION OF A POLICE FORCE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, STABILIZATION OF THE EXCHANGE RATE, FINANCIAL AUSTERITY, IMPROVEMENT OF DISTRIBUTION OF STAPLES, AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE LAST, WHICH INVOLVES ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACTS WITH THE KHMER INSURGENTS, WAS PLACED UNDER A SPECIAL MINISTRY HEADED BY RAY LAMOUTH. PUBLIC REACTION TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT RANGED FROM INDIFFERENCE TO RESTRAINED EXPECTANCY.

3. FORMER FINANCE MINISTER SOK SHNONG WAS APPOINTED GOVERNOR OF THE NATIONAL BANK, WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO ADD IMPORTANT DEPTH AND EXPERIENCE IN MONETARY POLICY.

4. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED KHMER- LANGUAGE PRESS HAS MADE SEVERAL FAVORABLE REFERENCES TO THE PRIVATE EFFORTS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER SON SANN TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INSURGENTS. DURING HIS PRESENT VISIT TO PHNOM PENH SON SANN, WHO HAS LIVED IN PARIS SINCE THE DEPOSITION OF SIHANOUK, HAS MET WITH MANY POLITICAL FIGURES AND HELD A PUBLIC CONFERENCE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

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5. THE CONTROLLED PRESS REPORTED ON MAY 22 THAT PRIME MINISTER IN TAM WOULD BE TRAVELING TO VARIOUS REGIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING CONTACTS WITH INSURGENT LEADERS, ONE OF WHOM WAS REPORTED ALREADY TO HAVE MADE CONTACT WITH HIM.

6. PRESIDENT LON NOL LEFT PHNOM PENH ON MAY 20 FOR A REPORTED TEN- DAY REST IN KOMPONG SOM. DURING HIS ABSENCE CHENG HENG AS ITS VICE PRESIDENT WILL CHAIR THE MEETINGS OF THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. FOREIGN MINISTER LONG BORET LEFT PHOM PENH ON
MAY 20 TO REPRESENT PRESIDENT LON NOL AT THE
INAUGURATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF ARGENTINA.

GRUNK/ FUNK

8. SIHANOUK LEFT GUINEA MAY 16 FOR MALI. IN BAMAKO,
ACCORDING TO AFP, THE PRINCE, RESPONDING TO A QUESTION
SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING THE USSR AND FRANCE, SAID HE
WILL REFUSE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE
NOT RECOGNIZED GRUNK BY THE TIME IT TAKES PHNOM PENH.
SIHANOUK ADDED THAT LE DUC THO TOLD KISSINGER THAT

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
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CINCUSARPAC
CGNWFAPAC
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7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 4975

THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM WOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED DURING THE PARIS MEETINGS. HE ALSO SAID THAT UN RPT UN RECOGNITION OF GRUNK AS THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMBODIA WOULD END THE WAR IN CAMBODIA.

9. SIHANOUK AND ENTOURAGE LEFT MALI AND ARRIVED IN CONGO (B) ON MAY 19.

10. AFP REPORTED THE RELEASE IN HANOI OF A FUNK PAMPHLET ASSERTING THAT KHMER ROUGE AND KHMER COMMUNISTS ARE NO LONGER SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS. THE CPNLAF, FUNK, GRUNK AND ALL PATROS WHETHER PRO- SIHANOUK MARXISTS OR OTHER NATIONALISTS HAVE FORMED A TIGHT UNION, GIVEN UP THEIR FORMER POLITICAL LABELS, AND ADOPTED A COMMON IDEOLOGY, ACCORDING TO THE PAMPHLET. THE BOOKLET NOTED THAT LIBERATION FORCES NOW TOTAL 72,000 EXCLUDING PEOPLE' S MILITIA AND VILLAGE GUERRILLAS. COMPROMISE, NEGOTIATION OR RECONCILIATION WITH THE GKR WAS EXCLUDED.

GRUNK/ FUNK (EXTERNAL)

11. ON MAY 15 HOR NAM HONG PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS AS GRUNK AMBASSADOR TO CUBA. HE REPLACED TOCH KHAM DOEUN, NOW AMBASSADOR TO CHINA.

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12. RICE. ON MAY 18 RICE STOCKS STOOD AT 21 ,339 METRIC TONS OR 39 DAYS SUPPLY AT THE INCREASED PLANNING RATE OF 550 METRIC TONS PER DAY . THIS TOTAL INCLUDES 3,0 51 METRIC TONS THAT ARRIVED IN TWO SEPARATE RTE 4 CONVOYS FROM KOMPONG SOM.

13. POL. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF INDUSTRIAL DIESEL, POL STOCKS ARE IN SUFFICIENT SUPPLY TO SATISFY REQUIREMENTS UNTIL THE NEXT MEKONG CONVOY. AUTO DIESEL CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR INDUSTRIAL DIESEL IF NECESSARY.

MILITARY

14. SEVEN OF EIGHT SHIPS IN THE 17 MAY MEKONG RIVER CONVOY, CARRING VITAL POL SUPPLIES, ARRIVED PHNOM PENH AFTER COMING UNDER FIRE NORTH OF NEAK LUONG. ONE CARGO SHIP, SET AFIRE BY A 75 MM RECOILLES- RIFLE ROUND, WAS ABANDONED. U. S. AIRSTRIKES WERE A MAJOR ASSET IN NEUTRALIZING ENEMY DIRECT FIRE CAPABILITY. ELSEWHERE ALONG THE MEKONG, STEEPED- UP ACTIVITY AGAINST NEAK LUONG' S OUTER DEFENSE PERIMTER BEGINNING 22 MAY COULD INDICATE ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK THE RIVER PORT SOON. LOSS OF THIS POSITION WOULD CLOSE THE RIVER.

15. ON RTE 2, FANK FORCES CONTINUE TO EXPAND TAKEO' S PERIMETER AGAINST LIGHT RESISTANCE. THIS SUGGESTS THAT MOST OF THE ENEMY HAVE WITHDRAWN LEAVING A RESERVE TO KEEP KHMER FORCES FROM REGAINING RTE 2.

16. ON RTE 3, ELEMENTS OF THE THIRD DIVISION LAUNCHED A THRE- BATTALION OPERATION TO COUNTER A RECENT SURGE IN ENEMY ACTIVITIES AND REGAIN POSITIONS LOST 15 MAY. NO NEW ENEMY INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALONG THE HIGHWAY. THE FANK GARRISON AT TRAM KHNAR REMAINS ISOLATED. FANK J-2 (INTELLIGENCE) REPORTS INDICATE A POSSIBLE BUILD- UP OF ENEMY FORCES SOUTHEWEST OF THE CAPITAL WITH INTENTIONS TO CUT RTE 4 NEAR PHNOM PENH.

17. ON 21 MAY KHMER INSURGENTS ATTACKED THREE COMPANY-
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SIZED POSITIONS ALONG THE LOWER REACHES OF RTE 4 CLOSING THE HIGHWAY TO CONVOY TRAFFIC. THE SCHEDULED DEPLOY-

MENT OF REINFORCEMENTS FROM KOMPONG SPEU IS EXPECTED TO END WHAT IS PROBABLY A LIMITED INTERDICTION EFFORT.

18. RECENTLY REINFORCED GOVERNMENT UNITS ALONG RTE 5 MADE LITTLE PROGRESS IN CLEARING ENEMY STRONGHOLDS ON THAT HIGHWAY. THE INSURGENTS MAINTAIN CONTROL OF ABOUT 9 KMS OF THE ROAD WHICH HAS BEEN CLOSED TO CONVOYS SINCE EARLY APRIL.

19. ENEMY ACTIVITY, CONSISTING OF ABFS AND LIMITED GROUND PROBES, INCREASED IN AREAS EAST AND SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHAM FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL MONTHS. RENEWED ACTIVITY HERE MAY BE DESIGNED TO COVER MOVEMENT OF LOGISTICS ACROSS THE MEKONG IN THE TRADITIONAL CROSSING ZONES NORTH AND SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHAM CITY. SWANK

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COPENHAGEN
EA
HONG KONG
JAKARTA
KUALA LUMPUR

LONDON
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Type: TE

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